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INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

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SUBJECT: 17 NOVEMBER APPEALS TRIAL POSTPONED TO OCTOBER

REF: 08 ATHENS 910

(SBU) The Greek Supreme Court announced February 3 that it would postpone until October 20 the start of an appeals trial for most of the members of the Revolutionary Organization 17 November (17N) who are still in prison (reftel), because of the death of a lawyer for one of the convicts. The trial is the latest -- and we understand the last -- in a long series of Greek legal proceedings following the arrests of 17N figures in 2002. Greece's most notorious domestic terrorist group, 17N is responsible for the deaths of 5 U.S. Government employees, among other Greek and Western targets. Convicted members have used past appeals trials to garner attention for themselves and their "revolutionary" cause. While the Supreme Court trial should exhaust the convicts' legal options in the Greek system, they are widely expected to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights after the Supreme Court process is completed. Post will continue to follow this case closely.  
SPECKHARD